

**From:** RICHARD SMITH  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:40pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

11531 Reltas Ct. Cincinnati, OH 45249-1707

January 28,2002

The Hon. John

Ashcroft;Attorney General;U.S. Department of Justice;950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.; Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General: The

Department of Justice made a good pitch to Americans at the start of the 'U.S. vs. Microsoft' lawsuit. We were told that the consumer needed government intervention to avoid being injured by Microsoft's unethical business practices. However, three years of litigation have proven enormously expensive for Microsoft and for the federal government. The inevitable result will be that any substantive benefit the settlement brings to the consumer will be balanced or outweighed by the great burden that the suit has been for the IT industry as a whole. Microsoft will have to reveal portions of Windows code to competitors and by being subject to the permanent scrutiny of a three person committee formed to review Microsoft's actions for years to come. This should be considered a fair resolution. PLEASE--let's stick to the agreement!! Anymore time and resources spent in persuing Microsoft at the federal level can only serve to raise the price of the lawsuit to customers and taxpayers. It is high time to see this matter put behind us. The Department of Justice must end this lawsuit as soon as this period of public comment is concluded. Very sincerely, Richard Smith